

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shunpei Yamazaki, et al. Art Unit : 1792
Serial No. : 09/892,225 Examiner : Mathew J. Song
Filed : June 25, 2001 Conf. No. : 1969
Title : SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND FABRICATION METHOD THEREFOR

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF JANUARY 10, 2008

Claims 15-19, 29-31, 35, 36, 39-46, 49-54, 57-68, 71-76 and 95-100 are pending in this application, with claims 15, 16, 35, 36, 39 and 40 being independent.

The pending claims have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-127 of U.S. Patent No. 6,913,956 ("the '956 patent") in view of Burghartz (U.S. Patent No. 5,461,250), over claims 1-70 of U.S. Patent No. 7,115,453 ("the '453 patent") in view of Burghartz, and over claims 1-70 of U.S. Patent No. 7,052,943 ("the '943 patent") in view of Burghartz.

Each of independent claims 15, 35 and 39 recites, among other features, "forming a first amorphous semiconductor film comprising silicon and germanium on an insulating surface" (emphasis added) and "forming a second amorphous semiconductor film comprising silicon on the first amorphous semiconductor film" (emphasis added). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 15, 35 and 39, and their dependent claims, because neither claims 1-127 of the '956 patent, claims 1-70 of the '453 patent, claims 1-70 of the '943 patent, Burghartz, nor any proper combination thereof describes or suggests forming a first amorphous semiconductor film that includes silicon and germanium on an insulating surface and then forming, on the first amorphous semiconductor film, a second amorphous semiconductor film that includes silicon.

As acknowledged by the Examiner on pages 3-5 of the Office Action, none of the claims of the '956 patent, the '453 patent, and the '943 patent describe or suggest the recited first and